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Downing 'Town and Gown'

■ Last Wednesday's walkout of Student Congress typifies the divisions between graduate and undergraduate students

The conflict over funding for a graduate publication at last week's Student Congress meeting illustrated a cycle of neglect: an ignorance of graduate concerns by the congress and a lack of graduate student participation in that body.

Both Student Congress and the graduate student body share the blame for last Wednesday's debacle and for the greater trend it demonstrated, and only changes on both sides will steer the two groups off future collision courses.

Last week's controversy arose from a budget proposal from Town and Gown, a School of Social Work graduate publication featuring the writings of homeless people and convicts.

The magazine's request for \$962.80 already had the approval of Student Congress' Finance Committee. When the magazine's request came before the entire congress, however, congress members became concerned that too much money had already been spent this semester.

After members voted to deny the magazine funding, most graduate student representatives stormed out of the meeting, accusing Student Congress of being indifferent student requests and concerns.

Indeed, Student Congress does deserve part of the blame. If nothing else, the Finance Committee acted irresponsibly in approving a request that excessively taxed their present funding capacities. The committee could have saved the group the embarrassment of appearing before the entire congress only to be denied funding completely.

Student Congress' present structure and atmosphere also lend credence to the graduate students' complaints.

Most congress members are undergraduates, who are more concerned with undergraduate issues and familiar with undergraduate groups. Such an atmosphere seems chilly to graduates with entirely different educational experiences and concerns.

Graduate students, however, do have opportunities to change the congress' climate, and their failure to do so makes them partly responsible for the present conflict.

The graduate representatives' dramatic exit from the meeting was an immature and destructive way to respond to the congress' objectionable behavior. Their departure left the congress with too few members to vote on other budget proposals, forcing other deserving groups to go home unfunded.

Instead of responding in kind to Student Congress' often puerile behavior, the graduate student population must take positive steps to change it. The five presently-vacant graduate congress seats only perpetuate the problems of negativity and neglect within Student Congress.

Graduate student Richard Kilbourne's position as Speaker is a partial solution. But the rancor over a simple graduate funding request indicates a lot of work must still be done.

Both Student Congress and graduate students have been active participants in this conflict. It's time for both to become active participants in solving it.

Crowned Jewell

After months of public accusations and humiliation, Richard Jewell is no longer a suspect for the Olympic bombing in Centennial Park this summer.

Clearly, the damage done to his reputation merits some type of a formal apology to Jewell, but from whom?

Following Jewell's brief stardom as the hero who tried to stop the bomb from exploding, he became known as the person responsible for it. An FBI source leaked the information to The Atlanta Constitution-Journal that Jewell was a suspect. The paper reported the news, which spread across the country through wire stories and national TV.

Though Jewell was never officially charged, people everywhere associated him with the Olympic bombing.

Now that the FBI has cleared Jewell of all charges, reparations must be made by those responsible for the damage done to Richard Jewell's reputation.

But making these reparations could be difficult as there is no specific group to blame for Jewell's treatment. Richard Jewell happened to be the victim of society's eagerness to point the finger at someone for a quick solution. When everyone—the FBI, the media and the public—

is in search of a quick fix, responsibility lies in us all.

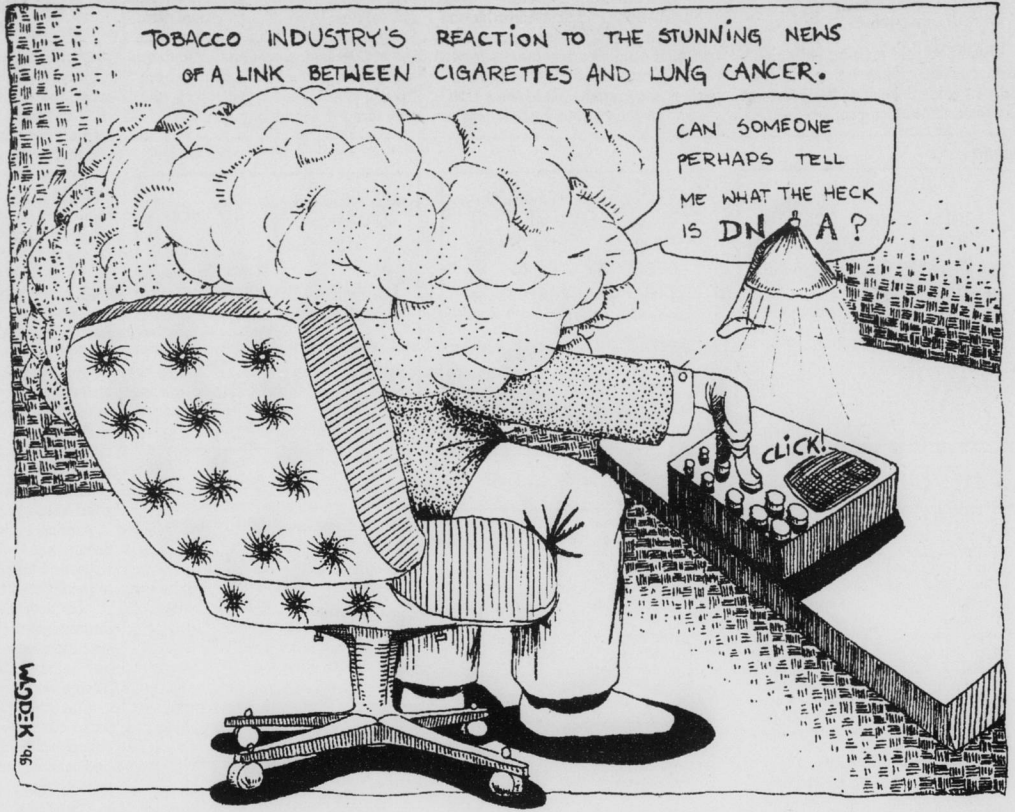
In this case, in addition to its job of investigating federal crimes, the FBI should have released information in more of a responsible manner. A press conference that gives clear information of the status of an investigation is more appropriate than a leak from an FBI source.

Though the media's purpose is to report information, it must show responsibility in how it reports the news. Instead of focusing solely on stories and deadlines, the media should consider the effects its coverage will have before opening up the floodgates to a man's personal life.

Finally, the public should realize that the media is a business providing a service that it wants.

If there was not an urge to read about the bombing suspect's life, there would not have been the same amount of coverage. Further, in accepting information given by the media, society must understand that everyone is innocent until proven guilty, regardless of what information leaks where.

With the knowledge that Jewell has been cleared of the Olympic bombing, society must examine itself and then decide who owes Richard Jewell an apology.



Indonesian human rights record speaks for itself

Chancellor Michael Hooker has often been accused of not discussing his actions with the faculty and students of this University. But now he's ignoring the cries of an entire nation.

The oppressive and autocratic Indonesian government actively sponsors genocide in East Timor. But at Hooker's request, a four-person panel including Provost Richard Richardson traveled to Jakarta, the capital, in July to discuss the possibility of creating a business program and other courses with Indonesian education and business officials.

Richardson described the negotiations as very preliminary, but said of the area, "Indonesia — with all of its problems — is a great boom area. It's going to be a big, big, player in the world scene."

Many economists agree that Indonesia is positioned for economic expansion, but the potential boom should not obscure its intolerable human rights record. The administration, Hooker in particular, obviously needs a history lesson.

Coveting gold, timber and oil reserves, Indonesia invaded the island nation of East Timor — population 600,000 — in 1975 and annexed it the next year in a move condemned at the time and since by the United Nations.

Since the illegal takeover, Indonesia has exterminated 200,000 Timorese, the worst genocide — proportionally speaking — since the Holocaust. Entire tribes have been wiped out, and human rights groups like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the United States Catholic Bishop's Conference have documented murder, torture and enforced starvation.

The state-sponsored terror is not a relic of the past, as last October confirms. The Washington Post reported that Indonesian policemen targeted Timorese youths, the group most disaffected and willing to protest, by storming homes and beating the defenseless teen-agers with bamboo sticks. Thousands more were

arrested in an attempt to quell any demonstrations marking the 20th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion.

A cultural genocide also continues today as the Indonesian government actively pursues a policy of moving 100,000 Indonesian Muslim immigrants into a population of about 600,000 mostly Catholic Timorese. During the process, the government often relegates the Timorese to a life of poverty by seizing their property. Timorese women have been sterilized against their will. Communicating in the native language is a punishable offense.

Indonesia also lacks basic civil rights, like freedom of speech, movement or religion, which should be firm requirements for any country wanting to do business with the University. At a minimum, the University should deny privileges to countries that slaughter their neighbors. After all, we are not Nike trying to find the cheapest place to manufacture shoes. It's our obligation to look past the financial bottom line.

Of particular interest to University administrators should be Indonesia's deceptive and prejudiced educational system. Indonesian law guarantees academic freedom, but, in reality, material can be censored if the government deems it too controversial. The Seattle Times reported in July that East Timorese children learn nothing of their own history or culture and are instructed that the Indonesian government arrived to stop a bloody civil war, a false, revisionist theory of what actually happened. Should the University lend its respected name to such an unequal system?

UNC is not the first to build ties with Indo-

nesia. Despite its unceasing assault on East Timor, Indonesia enjoys favorable trade relations with the western world, the United States in particular. While not directly responsible, the West's willingness to give weapons, food and investment dollars has perpetuated the genocide and made it easier to ignore the ongoing slaughter.

Relations with countries like Indonesia might be necessary in international politics, but the university has no such excuse. By establishing educational ties, we will signal to Indonesia that once again the sickening abuses will go unpunished, or worse, will be rewarded. What does the University have to gain in Indonesia that it cannot gain by establishing ties with democratic Asian nations, except a sullied reputation and a sense of selling out usually reserved for national politicians and multinational corporations?

Joseph Stalin, one of a handful of leaders whose appalling human rights record compares to Indonesian President Suharto's, once said, "A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic." The University should not let the Timorese become a statistic by caving into corporate greed. The dollar signs spinning in the heads of UNC's top officials should not blind them to the continuing atrocities.

Hooker should go to Indonesia and ask to see East Timor. He should ask to speak to the mother whose four sons were removed forcefully from their home by Indonesian policemen, dragged to the edge of town, shot and left for her to find in the morning. He should listen to the relatives of the 110 Timorese gunned down in 1991 by Indonesian troops as they marched peacefully in a funeral procession.

He should go. Listen. And then ask a simple question. Does Indonesia deserve our endorsement?

Graham Brink is a graduate student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication from Vancouver, British Columbia.



GRAHAM BRINK
MANAGING EDITOR

Animal rights protestors distort Dykstra's purpose

TO THE EDITOR:

I must respond to an article entitled "Protesters call for an end to animal experiments" (Oct. 28). Your readers are being misinformed and misled by Denise Atwell's comments.

The Biomedical Research/Animal Rights debate is one of fact vs. fiction. If you want the facts, ask an animal researcher. If you want a passionate tale of injustice and perversity watch an animal rights protest. The FACTS: experiments conducted in the Dykstra lab are humane and valuable in the study of medicine and drug addiction. FICTION: Dykstra's experiments "often involved the mutilation and torture of squirrel monkeys, pigeons, and mice" and "have not lead to any significant progress in the scientific community."

We in the Dykstra lab take such comments very personally. The Animal Rights movement tries to demonize animal researchers. By making us appear less than human, they find support in the community to help stop the "mutilation and torture." No animals are tortured in our experiments. No animals are mutilated in our experiments. If Denise Atwell's comments attracted your attention, she was successful. If she gained your support, you should be ashamed - you didn't do your homework.

Denise Atwell speaks of science fiction, not science. She wants you to stop the "cruel and unnecessary" torture these heartless people inflict upon animals. What she doesn't want you to know is that we, the researchers, are human - just like you. That we have a sense of social responsibility. That we have emotions. That we can recognize cruelty when it occurs. That we are moved by suffering and pain.

She doesn't want you to know that the work we do is for YOU. For YOUR Grandmother suffering daily from arthritis. For YOUR father with lower back pain. For YOUR best friend with a drug problem. For YOUR health. For YOUR community.

Come talk to us. Learn what it is we really do. As for cruel and unnecessary, I'll tell you what I think is cruel and unnecessary. Slander. Lying to the public to promote a radical agenda.



READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail forum to: dth@unc.edu.

Texas jury decision, abortion rights not incompatible

Suggesting that as a society we stop searching for ways to treat pain and suffering and drug addiction - this is cruel and unnecessary.

Richard Allen
GRADUATE STUDENT
NEUROBIOLOGY LABORATORY OF LINDA A. DYKSTRA, PH.D.

TO THE EDITOR:

It is evident that Ryan Norwood knows nothing of human gestation, of having children, of having to make the decision for a first term abortion or of the river of life. The spouting of the ideological rhetoric in "Slaughter by any other name" (Oct. 25) equates a viable premature infant with a 4-week to 8-week embryo. This leap of logic is a poor pillar to base an anti-choice tirade upon.

My two children were both born at 32 weeks, or 7 months. They each weighed 3 pounds, 14 ounces. Today, they are 3- and 6-years old and thriving and perfect. They were born viable. They could survive. They were in the final term of gestation, what is called the third or late term. If Mr. Norwood truly knew his statistics he would understand that the number

of abortions performed at this point in a pregnancy are a minuscule portion of all abortions, and if done are only done in dire medical emergencies.

The vast number of safe and legal abortions are performed during the first term, at around 4 weeks to 8 weeks gestation. The embryo is not viable. It cannot survive. To confuse the two is to stretch science to the breaking point.

Eighteen years ago, my college sweetheart and I had to have an abortion. It simply had to be. If I knew then what I know now, the decision would be the same, because being a parent means giving all of oneself self to the well-being of the child. To force the issue; to have children when those children cannot be nurtured with kindness, raised in comfort, and without the confidence and guarantee of the parents that they can keep this up for the next twenty years at minimum; is to condemn both parents and child to a life of dysfunction and deferred dreams.

To deliberately reject our ability to create a healthy and productive family environment, for both children and parents, is to wish to remain no more responsible in reproductive matters than brute animals. Is that what you want, Mr. Norwood: for people to have no more control than a squirrel over whether or not we have babies.

The jury in Texas made a right decision. The two positions are not contradictory; merely what happens when one exercises a full and accurate understanding of both the intricate human creature and the complex world we inhabit.

Richard Ashley
CHAPEL HILL

Endorsement letters

The DTH will run endorsement letters for local, state and national offices/referenda on Nov. 4. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, signed by no more than two people and be submitted no later than Friday at noon. Letters can be brought to the DTH office in Suite 104 or submitted electronically at dth@unc.edu

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